



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**  
*Maryland's Social Services Agency*



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SECRETARY TO TESTIFY IN  
FAVOR OF BILL RAISING THE AGE OF CONSENT FOR ADOPTION**

**BALTIMORE** – Department of Human Resources Secretary Brenda Donald will testify in favor of a legislative proposal that would raise the age at which a child could consent to adoption from 10 to 14. Currently, Maryland is only one of six states allowing 10 year-olds the option of consenting to adoption.

The House Judiciary Committee will hold a public hearing on the matter on Thursday, February 26 at 1 p.m. in the Casper Taylor Building.

**WHO:**

Brenda Donald, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Resources

**WHAT:**

Public Hearing on House Bill 570 – Raising the Age of Consent for Adoption

**WHEN:**

Thursday, February 26 at 1 p.m.

**WHERE:**

Judiciary Committee Room  
Casper Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also administers programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 638,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.

- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary